

From: CARL KITZ  
To: osc  
Date: 1/30/97 11:05am  
Subject: News article on Weyerhaeuser spill

The following is from a recent news article on the turpentine spill. This is from the Longview, WA Daily News.

The odor of crude sulfate turpentine spread west to the coast, north to Thurston County and south past Cannon Beach.

Weyco stench wafts  
across region

Turpentine-sulfur spill  
creates 'acute health hazard'

Don Jenkins The Daily News

The stench from a chemical spill Monday at Weyerhaeuser Co.  
in Longview could still be smelled as far away as Olympia and  
Astoria this morning.

Cowlitz County Emergency officials said the odiferous mix of  
sulfate turpentine is "an acute health hazard and in heavy  
concentration can cause  
dizziness and chest symptoms such as eye irritation, nausea, headaches,  
pain."

"People with respiratory disorders and experiencing these  
symptoms are advised to seek medical advice," according to a statement  
issued by the Cowlitz Department of Emergency Management.

Weyerhaeuser said shortly before noon today that it expects  
the odor to dissipate in the next 24 hours.

An 8,700-gallon mixture left over from making pulp  
overflowed from a tank about 10:30 a.m. Monday because of an equipment  
malfunction,

Weyerhaeuser spokesman Rullie Harris said today.  
People described the odor as smelling like cat urine, oily  
rotten eggs, a mixture of sewage and acid, and "dead and decaying

material."

in a mill  
smell far and

The spill ran into the sewer system and eventually surfaced  
waste-water treatment settling pond, where winds blew the  
wide.

plant is being  
contaminate the river.

Harris said the waste water discharged from the treatment  
tested, but the company does not think the spill will

been a good  
inconvenience we have

"We are really sorry this happened. We realize we haven't  
neighbor to our community. We apologize for the  
caused," Harris said.

workers  
although several  
vomiting and

A St. John Medical Center spokeswoman said emergency room  
had no record of treating anyone suffering from the stench,  
people contacted by The Daily News reported sore throats,  
other minor maladies.

Winterfeld said  
south as Garibaldi  
Environmental  
odor this

Cowlitz County Emergency Management Director Trudy  
she received reports of people smelling the odor as far  
on the Oregon coast, and a woman who works for the  
Protection Agency in Olympia told Winterfeld she smelled the  
morning.

odor, she

People with respiratory problems should avoid breathing the  
said.

worse,"

"It certainly seems to me some areas appear to be getting  
Winterfeld said this morning.

Jordan, whose  
morning.

"It's noticeable," said Astoria police dispatcher Les  
department was receiving reports from residents this

few hours, but  
odor intensified,

Officials hoped Monday that the smell would dissipate in a  
after the oily substance surfaced in the settling pond the  
Harris said.

are designed  
the smell."

today to

called a  
foul-smelling

"It all

treated on  
morning -- but

Corner, said a  
10-month-old son

morning, though

smell this

notice the smell  
up at

she said. "All

Wanda Derby,

Longview Fire Marshal Jack Smith said spills from the tank  
to flow into the sewer. "I don't know if they anticipated

Workers from Cowlitz Clean Sweep were working at the mill  
skim the substance off the pond, Harris said.

Trouble began Monday when the steam to a piece of machinery  
"stripper" was interrupted. The stripper removes "very  
compounds" from the byproducts of pulp making, Harris said.  
With the stripper shutdown, the waste-water tank overflowed.  
happened very quickly," he said.

The mill was not evacuated, and Harris said two workers were  
site for coughing and nausea -- one Monday and one this  
both returned to work later.

West Longview resident Tim Wyatt, who lives near Baker's  
"cat urine smell" about 1:30 p.m. drove him and his  
Danny from their apartment.

"It was just awful. I grabbed Danny and took off," he said.  
The smell lessened during the evening and was gone this  
Danny still had red, puffy eyes, Wyatt said.

Down both sides of the Columbia River residents reported the  
morning was as bad or worse as Monday.

Germany Creek Road resident Shelly Smith said she didn't  
Monday at her home 15 miles west of Longview, but she woke  
midnight thinking the "cat had sprayed the house."

"I couldn't go back to sleep because the smell was so bad,"  
my kids left for school sneezing."

"I woke up last night retching," said Clatskanie resident  
who lives about a quarter-mile from the Columbia River. "I

have thrown up

three times, and I don't have a sensitive stomach."

decaying

Derby described the smell as "something mixed with dead and material."

morning to

Clatskanie resident Suzan Willson said she went outside this feed her horse and dogs and turned right around because smelled like "oily rotten eggs."

something

that one up,"

"I have a somewhat dysfunctional nose, but I sure could pick she said. "It clings to your clothes."

counties reported

Sheriff's office dispatchers in Wahkiakum and Pacific this morning receiving complaints about the odor from people River, Naselle, Ocean Park and the Long Beach Peninsula.

in Grays